Katie and Kate are examples of two ages, experiences, and backgrounds. These classes include a rich mixture of students with different backgrounds. GCC/MassArt classes taught at GCC, and GCC isn’t the only College or University that offers programs throughout the country. GCC is a small community College with a long history of art in the Pioneer Valley. Many of its faculty and students are collaborative in offering upper level programs and courses. Paul Lindale, Art Department Chair, taught at GCC, contact Tom Young, 413-775-1241. For information about Katie and Kate, please contact them.

GCC Art Professor and Photographer Tom Young, said, “Katie and Kate are examples of two students with different backgrounds. Both Katie and Kate have their own ways to approach photography. Katie didn’t always have an interest in photography. For a number of years, she ran a housecleaning business, Kati Cleaning Services, based in Newtonville. When she was 27 years old, Katie thought, ‘If I could do anything, what would I do?’ She was interested in photography since her junior year in high school and received an Associate of Arts degree from GCC in 2008. In 2007, Katie enrolled in a class taught at MassArt College. It was in that first class she found that when other students at RISD went straight to school before RISD, “GCC, RISD, Yale. None had the help I needed. The nature of GCC is special as the experience I had in my first class, I was hooked.”

Kate’s experience at GCC enabled her to be successful in her application to graduate school. She said, “Tom Young is a major influential photography teacher I’ve had at the three schools I’ve attended – GCC, RISD, Yale. No one could have taught me how to look at images, how to see what I would do beyond taking some art classes at GCC.”

Katie decided she wanted to go to graduate school and applied to several programs. Katie said, “I didn’t do anything. Tom mentored John Willis and told him she’d like to take more classes in photography. Willis recommended the MassArt Classes at Greenfield Community College. Katie enrolled in a MassArt photography class at GCC, and then took GCC/MassArt classes. Katie then enrolled in a MassArt photography class at GCC, and then took GCC/MassArt classes. She said, “Tom was very inspiring, providing an outstanding level of criticism and support. He is very inspiring and very challenging. When I enrolled in that first class, I was older and knew what I wanted. That class was so dynamic, including a very diverse group of students. It was very helpful to get feedback from such a wide range of people. After that first class, I was hooked.”

Kate’s experience at GCC enabled her to be successful in her application to the MFA program at Yale. She said, “The classes I took from Tom taught me how to look at images, how to be a body of work and present it. It was like taking a course every day. I would graduate school. I would never have been accepted into a MFA program without my GCC/MassArt experience. And, because of the high level of support and critique I experienced at GCC, Greenwich, Connecticut. It was a lot of fun, challenging, and I would do it all over again. I would do it all over again.”

In addition to photography classes, MassArt Painting classes are taught at GCC. Tom Young said, “GCC Professor Brooke Hyde is teaching the MassArt Painting classes. Hyde has a long standing reputation as one of the most vibrant and powerful Professionals of Art in the Pioneer Valley. Many of his MassArt students have gone on to various graduate and undergraduate programs throughout the country.”

For information about GCC’s Art Department and MassArt’s classes, please contact Tom Young, 413-775-1241 or Paul Lound, Art Department Chair, 413-775-1241. For information about Katie and Kate, please contact them.

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